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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00950 210029Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DLOS-09 OES-09 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /055 W
----------129274 212037Z /23
R 202240Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4395
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0950

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: B.C. FISHERMEN GO BACK TO WORK

REF: VANCOUVER 0931

1. THE WALKOUT OF THE B.C. FISHING INDUSTRY, WHICH BEGAN RATHER ABRUPTLY WHEN THE TENDERMEN REJECTED AN INDUSTRY PROPOSAL ON JULY 16, ENDED LATE JULY 19, AS TENDERMEN AND SHOREWORKERS VOTED TO ACCEPT NEW CONTRACT PACKAGES. (THE FISHERMEN THEMSELVES HAD PREVIOUSLY SETTLED ON A MINIMUM PER-POUND PRICE PACKAGE, BUT RELUCTANTLY JOINED THE OTHER TWO PARTS OF THE UNION IN THE STRIKE.)

2. THE WAGE OFFER ACCEPTED BY THE TENDERMEN WAS THE SAME ONE WHICH THEY HAD REJECTED ON SUNDAY - A DOLS9.00 PER DAY INCREASE. THE KEY ISSUE, IT TURNED OUT, WAS WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ONE OR TWO AGREEMENTS COVERING THE SALMON AND THE HERRING SEASONS.

3. THE TENDERMEN (WHO ARE THE "BRIDGE" BETWEEN THE FISHING BOATS AND THE PROCESSING PLANTS) REFUSED TO ACCEPT INDUSTRY S ATTEMPTS TO BRING BOTH SEASONS UNDER ONE CONTRACT, ARGUING THAT THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF EACH WERE RADICALLY DIFFERENT. THE INTENSITY OF THEIR FEELING ON THIS ISSUE APPARENTLY WAS UNDER-ESTIMATED EVEN BY THEIR UNION NEGOTIATING TEAM, WHICH CLAIMED TO BE SURPRISED BY THE JULY 16 STRIKE VOTE. THE COMPROMISE
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REACHED ON JULY 19 WAS TO RETURN TO THE PAST PRACTICE OF SIGNING SEPARATE MEMORANDA FOR THE TWO SEASONS. IN RETURN, THE UNION HAS GIVEN A "NO-STRIKE" PLEDGE FOR THE SPRING 1979 HERRING RUN. FINAL DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS TO COVER THE HERRING SEASON ARE LEFT TO A JOINT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE SET UP FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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4. THE MORE THAN 4000 SHOREWORKERS BOUGHT A PACKAGE WHICH
INCLUDES A 70 CENT PER HOUR WAGE HIKE. THIS RAISES THE BASE
PAY TO DOLS7.42 PER HOUR, WITH THAT OF A TOP TRADESMAN REACHING
DOLS9.59 PER HOUR.
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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